

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

1. (original) A liquid droplet ejecting head ejecting liquid droplets by pressure waves caused by electrostatic forces, the liquid droplet ejecting head including: one or more nozzle holes ejecting the liquid droplets; one or more pressure liquid chambers communicating with the nozzle holes and containing liquid to be ejected; a common liquid chamber communicating with the pressure liquid chambers one or more diaphragms each forming a wall face of the corresponding pressure liquid chamber; one or more vibration chambers containing air gaps provided in contact with the diaphragms on an opposite side from the pressure liquid chambers; and one or more electrodes provided to oppose the diaphragms through the air gaps, the liquid droplets being ejected from the nozzle holes by increasing pressure inside the pressure liquid chambers by deflecting the diaphragms by the electrostatic forces generated by voltages applied to the electrodes, the liquid droplet ejecting head comprising:

a deformable plate whose deformation is greater than a total deformation of the diaphragms, the deformable plate forming a wall face of the common liquid chamber; and

a pressure correcting chamber provided across said deformable plate from the common liquid chamber so as to communicate with the vibration chambers.

2. (original) The liquid droplet ejecting head as claimed in claim 1, wherein said deformable plate has a thickness less than that of each diaphragm.

3. (original) The liquid droplet ejecting head as claimed in claim 1, wherein said

deformable plate has an in-plane length greater than that of each diaphragm.

4. (original) The liquid droplet ejecting head as claimed in claim 1, wherein a change in a total volume V_0 of an actuator chamber is greater than or equal to $0.15 \times V_0$ if a pressure of 53 hPa is applied evenly to said deformable plate, the change in the total volume V_0 being caused by the deformation of said deformable plate.

5. (original) The liquid droplet ejecting head as claimed in claim 1, wherein said pressure correcting chamber comprises a plurality of independent chambers corresponding to the vibration chambers.

6. (original) An ink cartridge comprising:

a liquid droplet ejecting head ejecting ink droplets by pressure waves caused by electrostatic forces; and

an ink tank supplying ink to said liquid droplet head, the ink tank being integrated with said liquid droplet ejecting head,

wherein the liquid droplet ejecting head includes: one or more nozzle holes ejecting the ink droplets; one or more pressure liquid chambers communicating with the nozzle holes and containing the ink to be ejected; a common liquid chamber communicating with the pressure liquid chambers; one or more diaphragms each forming a wall face of the corresponding pressure liquid chamber; one or more vibration chambers containing air gaps provided in contact with the diaphragms on an opposite side from the pressure liquid chambers; and one or more electrodes provided to oppose the diaphragms through the air gaps, the ink droplets being ejected from the nozzle holes by increasing pressure inside the pressure liquid chambers by deflecting the

diaphragms by the electrostatic forces generated by voltages applied to the electrodes, the liquid droplet ejecting head comprising:

a deformable plate whose deformation is greater than a total deformation of the diaphragms, the deformable plate forming a wall face of the common liquid chamber; and

a pressure correcting chamber provided across said deformable plate from the common liquid chamber so as to communicate with the vibration chambers.

7. (original) An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising:

an ink-jet head ejecting ink droplets by pressure waves caused by electrostatic forces, the ink-jet head including: one or more nozzle holes ejecting the ink droplets; one or more pressure liquid chambers communicating with the nozzle holes and containing ink to be ejected; a common liquid chamber communicating with the pressure liquid chambers; one or more diaphragms each forming a wall face of the corresponding pressure liquid chamber; one or more vibration chambers containing air gaps provided in contact with the diaphragms on an opposite side from the pressure liquid chambers; and one or more electrodes provided to oppose the diaphragms through the air gaps, the ink droplets being ejected from the nozzle holes by increasing pressure inside the pressure liquid chambers by deflecting the diaphragms by the electrostatic forces generated by voltages applied to the electrodes, the ink-jet head comprising:

a deformable plate whose deformation is greater than a total deformation of the diaphragms, the deformable plate forming a wall face of the common liquid chamber; and

a pressure correcting chamber provided across said deformable plate from the common liquid chamber so as to communicate with the vibration chambers.

8. (original) A micropump transporting liquid by deformation of one or more

diaphragms, the micropump including: a channel in which the liquid is transported; the diaphragms forming a wall face of the channel; one or more vibration chambers air gaps provided in contact with the diaphragms on an opposite side from the channel; and a plurality of electrodes provided to each of the diaphragms, the liquid being transported by increasing pressure inside the channel by deflecting the diaphragms by electrostatic forces generated by voltages applied to the electrodes, the micropump comprising:

a deformable plate whose deformation is greater than a total deformation of the diaphragms, the deformable plate forming the wall face of the channel; and

a pressure correcting chamber provided across said deformable plate from the channel so as to communicate with the vibration chambers.

9. (currently amended) An electrostatic actuator ~~including~~ comprising:

a vibration chamber having at least one side thereof formed by a diaphragm deformable by an electrostatic force;

an electrode provided opposite the diaphragm; and

a pressure correcting chamber communicating with the vibration chamber, the pressure correcting chamber having at least a first side thereof formed by a deformable part that is displaceable in accordance with an external pressure,

wherein the electrostatic actuator ~~comprising~~ further includes:

a part that reduces an area of contact formed when the deformable part comes into contact with a second side of the pressure correcting chamber, the second side opposing the deformable part.

10. (original) The electrostatic actuator as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one

projection is formed on a side of the deformable part which side opposes the second side of the pressure correcting chamber.

11. (original) The electrostatic actuator as claimed in claim 10, wherein the projection is formed of a material selected from a group of silicon oxide and nitride oxide.

12. (original) The electrostatic actuator as claimed in claim 9, wherein at least one projection is formed on the second side of the pressure correcting chamber.

13. (original) The electrostatic actuator as claimed in claim 12, wherein the projection is formed of a material selected from a group of silicon oxide and nitride oxide.

14. (original) The electrostatic actuator as claimed in claim 9, wherein surface roughening is performed on the second side of the pressure correcting chamber so that surface roughness thereof is increased.

15. (currently amended) An electrostatic actuator ~~including~~ comprising:
a vibration chamber having at least one side thereof formed by a diaphragm deformable by an electrostatic force;
an electrode provided opposite the diaphragm; and
a pressure correcting chamber communicating with the vibration chamber, the pressure correcting chamber having at least a first side thereof formed by a deformable part that is displaceable in accordance with an external pressure,

wherein the electrostatic actuator ~~comprising~~ further includes:

a sticking preventing part formed on a second side of the pressure correcting chamber so as to prevent the deformable part from sticking to the second side when the deformable part comes into contact therewith, the second side opposing the deformable part.

16. (original) The electrostatic actuator as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sticking preventing part is a hydrophobic film.

17. (original) The electrostatic actuator as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sticking preventing part is a conductive layer.

18. (currently amended) A liquid droplet ejecting head comprising:
a nozzle ejecting a liquid droplet;
a pressure liquid chamber containing liquid to be ejected, the pressure liquid chamber communicating with said nozzle; and

an electrostatic actuator pressurizing the liquid in said pressure liquid chamber, the electrostatic actuator ~~including~~ comprising:

a vibration chamber having at least one side thereof formed by a diaphragm deformable by an electrostatic force;

an electrode provided opposite the diaphragm; and

a pressure correcting chamber communicating with the vibration chamber, the pressure correcting chamber having at least a first side thereof formed by a deformable part that is displaceable in accordance with an external pressure,

wherein the electrostatic actuator ~~comprising~~ further includes:

a part that reduces an area of contact formed when the deformable part comes into

contact with a second side of the pressure correcting chamber, the second side opposing the deformable part.

19. (currently amended) A liquid droplet ejecting head comprising:

a nozzle ejecting a liquid droplet;

a pressure liquid chamber containing liquid to be ejected, the pressure liquid chamber communicating with said nozzle; and

an electrostatic actuator pressurizing the liquid in said pressure liquid chamber, the electrostatic actuator ~~including~~ comprising:

a vibration chamber having at least one side thereof formed by a diaphragm deformable by an electrostatic force;

an electrode provided opposite the diaphragm; and

a pressure correcting chamber communicating with the vibration chamber, the pressure correcting chamber having at least a first side thereof formed by a deformable part that is displaceable in accordance with an external pressure,

wherein the electrostatic actuator ~~comprising~~ further includes:

a sticking preventing part formed on a second side of the pressure correcting chamber so as to prevent the deformable part from sticking to the second side when the deformable part comes into contact therewith, the second side opposing the deformable part.

20. (currently amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising [[:]] an ink-jet head ejecting an ink droplet, the ink-jet head comprising:

a nozzle ejecting the ink droplet;

a pressure liquid chamber containing ink to be ejected, the pressure liquid chamber

communicating with said nozzle; and

an electrostatic actuator pressurizing the ink in said pressure liquid chamber, the electrostatic actuator ~~including~~ comprising:

a vibration chamber having at least one side thereof formed by a diaphragm deformable by an electrostatic force;

an electrode provided opposite the diaphragm; and

a pressure correcting chamber communicating with the vibration chamber, the pressure correcting chamber having at least a first side thereof formed by a deformable part that is displaceable in accordance with an external pressure,

wherein the electrostatic actuator ~~comprising~~ further includes:

a part that reduces an area of contact formed when the deformable part comes into contact with a second side of the pressure correcting chamber, the second side opposing the deformable part.

21. (currently amended) An ink-jet recording apparatus comprising ~~[[:]]~~ an ink-jet head ejecting an ink droplet, the ink-jet head comprising:

a nozzle ejecting the ink droplet;

a pressure liquid chamber containing ink to be ejected, the pressure liquid chamber communicating with said nozzle; and

an electrostatic actuator pressurizing the ink in said pressure liquid chamber, the electrostatic actuator ~~including~~ comprising:

a vibration chamber having at least one side thereof formed by a diaphragm deformable by an electrostatic force;

an electrode provided opposite the diaphragm; and

a pressure correcting chamber communicating with the vibration chamber, the pressure correcting chamber having at least a first side thereof formed by a deformable part that is displaceable in accordance with an external pressure,

wherein the electrostatic actuator ~~comprising~~ further includes:

a sticking preventing part formed on a second side of the pressure correcting chamber so as to prevent the deformable part from sticking to the second side when the deformable part comes into contact therewith, the second side opposing the deformable part.

22. (currently amended) A liquid supply cartridge integrating a liquid droplet ejecting head and a liquid supply tank supplying liquid thereto, wherein~~[[:]]~~ the liquid droplet ejecting head comprises:

a nozzle ejecting a liquid droplet;

a pressure liquid chamber containing the liquid to be ejected, the pressure liquid chamber communicating with said nozzle; and

an electrostatic actuator pressurizing the liquid in said pressure liquid chamber, the electrostatic actuator ~~including~~ comprising:

a vibration chamber having at least one side thereof formed by a diaphragm deformable by an electrostatic force;

an electrode provided opposite the diaphragm; and

a pressure correcting chamber communicating with the vibration chamber, the pressure correcting chamber having at least a first side thereof formed by a deformable part that is displaceable in accordance with an external pressure,

wherein the electrostatic actuator ~~comprising~~ further includes:

a part that reduces an area of contact formed when the deformable part comes into

contact with a second side of the pressure correcting chamber, the second side opposing the deformable part.

23. (currently amended) A liquid supply cartridge integrating a liquid droplet ejecting head and a liquid supply tank supplying liquid thereto, wherein [[:]] the liquid droplet ejecting head comprises:

a nozzle ejecting a liquid droplet;

a pressure liquid chamber containing the liquid to be ejected, the pressure liquid chamber communicating with said nozzle; and

an electrostatic actuator pressurizing the liquid in said pressure liquid chamber, the electrostatic actuator ~~including~~ comprising:

a vibration chamber having at least one side thereof formed by a diaphragm deformable by an electrostatic force;

an electrode provided opposite the diaphragm; and

a pressure correcting chamber communicating with the vibration chamber, the pressure correcting chamber having at least a first side thereof formed by a deformable part that is displaceable in accordance with an external pressure,

wherein the electrostatic actuator ~~comprising~~ further includes:

a sticking preventing part formed on a second side of the pressure correcting chamber so as to prevent the deformable part from sticking to the second side when the deformable part comes into contact therewith, the second side opposing the deformable part.

24. (new) The electrostatic actuator of claim 9, wherein the deformable part has a lower rigidity than the diaphragm.

25. (new) The electrostatic actuator of claim 9, wherein the deformable part is distinct from the diaphragm.

26. (new) The electrostatic actuator of claim 9, wherein the pressure correcting chamber is distinct from the vibration chamber.

27. (new) The electrostatic actuator of claim 9, wherein when a relative pressure difference as between the vibration chamber and an environment external to the electrostatic actuator changes, an equilibrium position of the deformable part changes while an equilibrium position of the diaphragm remains substantially unchanged.